

SELT! Tourism Fiction Award at Kenan's Mill in Selma. The attraction Ms. Hagel wrote about in the Selma contest is not well known outside the local area, but now anyone with internet access can read about it through her story. How many attractions in your districts deserve to be written about and promoted in the same way?

As a legislative body, we often differ on our views for creating economic opportunity in the country. However, I feel that we can all agree that we want writers in our districts that can help tell the history of those areas through engaging stories with characters who win the hearts of readers, while also bringing in new tourism dollars.

RETIRING MEMBERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my fellow Californians who I have had the honor of working with here in the House of Representatives.

SAM FARR has spent more than two decades serving the Central Coast in Congress . . . and so many years before that serving locally.

He has been a longtime advocate for our veterans and military families in California. And he always stands up for essential environmental protection efforts . . . and ocean conservation.

Because of Congressman FARR . . . many of our natural treasures in California will be preserved. He will be greatly missed, but I know he will enjoy spending more time in his beautiful hometown of Carmel.

My friend MIKE HONDA will be returning home to California after serving more than 35 years as an elected official . . . and 16 years as a member of Congress . . . representing the people of Silicon Valley.

Congressman HONDA has worked tirelessly on behalf of those who don't have a voice . . . serving as an important advocate for underserved communities. He has always understood the importance of closing gaps in education for our young people . . . and has put that on the forefront of his work in Congress.

Congressman HONDA has dedicated his life to public service . . . and we're incredibly grateful for all that he has done for the people of California. I know he will continue to be an important voice on the issues he cares about.

JANICE HAHN has always been willing to tackle important issues in Congress. I'm particularly grateful for her work to ensure we are strengthening infrastructure in California . . . and for her advocacy on behalf of women.

I know that as she transitions to her new role as Los Angeles County Supervisor . . . she will continue to deliver results for her region.

Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ has been an important advocate for women in the military . . . and a leader on immigration issues. I'm grateful for her decades of service here in Congress.

I will also dearly miss LOIS CAPPS . . . who I have had the pleasure of serving with for many years. As a former school nurse . . .

Congresswoman CAPPS has provided valuable insight on public health issues in Congress.

I've enjoyed working with her on the Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee on issues that impact everyday Americans . . . from ensuring people have affordable healthcare . . . to bolstering medical research . . . to strengthening programs like Medicare.

Congresswoman CAPPS has also been an important environmental advocate during her time in Congress. She understands the connections between public health and our changing climate . . . and has continuously fought to ensure that future generations in Santa Barbara . . . and across the country . . . have clean air to breathe.

I'm grateful to all of my departing colleagues from the great state of California. Each of you has brought a unique and important perspective to Congress . . . and I will miss the insights and friendship that you have provided me over the years.

Thank you for your service to our great nation . . . and I wish you all the best of luck as you enter into the next chapter of your lives back in California.

Know that you will always be welcome back here in the Nation's Capital.

IN HONOR OF JESUS "JACK" TERRAZAS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Imperial County Supervisor Jesus "Jack" Terrazas who is retiring from public service. Supervisor Terrazas graduated from San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus and is a licensed Life, Health, Fire and Casualty Insurance Broker. He was elected to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in June of 2008. Supervisor Terrazas represents the communities of Heber, El Centro, and Ocotillo and is serving his second term.

Supervisor Terrazas currently serves as Chairman of the Board and is a Board representative on the Imperial County Employees Retirement System, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Local Transportation Authority, and the Service Authorities for Freeway Emergencies. Supervisor Terrazas is also an alternate for the Local Area Formation Commission and California State Association of Counties. Prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Terrazas served three terms as an El Centro City Councilmember where he was appointed Mayor three times. In addition, Supervisor Terrazas served as a member of the El Centro Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees for eleven years and on the Board of Directors of the Imperial County Work Training Center.

During his years of public service, Supervisor Terrazas contributions to the community have been numerous. He was committed to the completion of numerous projects including, the improvement of roads, sidewalks, and public facilities in the Heber community. Supervisor Terrazas also supported a variety of housing programs such as, the First Time

Home Buyer program, the Cal Home Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehab Program which helped to assist families to repair and replace damaged and dilapidated homes. Supervisor Terrazas was also committed to protecting water in his community and launched a study to determine the condition and capabilities of the current meter systems. All his hard work and dedication was acknowledged in 2015 when Supervisor Terrazas was recognized with the Sure Helpline Crisis Center 2015 and Inspirational People of the Community Awards.

Supervisor Terrazas worked tirelessly to advance community and economic development in Imperial County through the growth of a robust renewable energy industry. He helped keep the county fiscally sound while preserving jobs, improving service quality, and advocating for Imperial County at the state and federal level. Supervisor Terrazas has four grown children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren and currently resides in El Centro with his wife of over forty years, Frances.

TRIBUTE TO THE AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor African Services Committee, Inc. for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Founded in 1981 by Ethiopian refugees to give a helping hand to other newcomers, today African Services is a multiservice agency based in Harlem and dedicated to assisting immigrants, refugees and asylees from across the African Diaspora.

Their programs address the needs of newcomers affected by war, persecution, poverty, and global health inequalities. The agency provide health, housing, legal, educational, and social services to 12,500 people each year. Staff representing more than 20 countries and speaking over 25 languages provide culturally and linguistically relevant support to this diverse and growing community.

Expanding HIV prevention and access to AIDS treatment and care is central to their mission. African Services has taken this work from Harlem to the frontlines of the global pandemic and now operates five HIV clinics in Ethiopia.

African Services Committee was started in 1981 in a Bronx basement apartment by Asfaha Hadera. Asfaha arrived in the United States having experienced first-hand the realities of refugee life. Asfaha fled his home country of Ethiopia in 1977 for refugee camps in Sudan, before emigrating to the U.S. in 1979.

Upon arrival, he saw a lack of assistance for others, like himself, who were refugees from conflicted areas throughout Africa. So, he established the organization to give a helping hand to other African newcomers and, with Kim Nichols, began refugee resettlement programs in New York City. As immigration from the continent increased, their offices expanded